ect of clandestine inflow of gold

778. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated annual loss to Government in terms of foreign exchange and other exportable commodities due to the clandestine inflow of gold into the country;

(b) whether Government have reviewed the working of the Gold Control Act so as to know how far it has achieved its objective in checking contraband consignments of gold entering into the country besides controlling and regulating the trade and industry engaged in the task of using gold; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof stating the deficiencies, if any, identified and the manner in which Government propose to remove them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Since smuggling is a clandestine activity no estimate can be made of the quantum of gold smuggled in to the country. Consequently it is not possible to know the loss of foreign exchange on this account.

(b) and (c) Government's gold policy in its totality is under examination by a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Rangarajan, Deputy Governer of Reserve Bank of India, constituted on May 13th, 1986.

Manipur as a transit link for smuggling activities

2779. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Manipur is increasingly becoming an imperative transit link for dope smugglers operating from the Golden Triangle countries of Laos, Thailand and Burma playing havoc with the youth of Manipur; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the measures being taken by Government to check the clandestine drug trafficking at the Manipur border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Reports received indicate that Manipur continues to be vulnerable to drug trafficking from across Indo-Burma border. However, the number of cases and the quantities of drugs seized, as reported to the Narcotics Control Bureau, which are given below would indicate that there is no large-scale smuggling of drugs in Manipur:

Sl. No.	Name of drug	No. of cases	Quantity (kilograms)
		1986	
1	Heroin	124	2.342
2	Ganja	8	81.000
		1987	
3	Heroin	14	1.818
4	Methaqualone	1	15.359